**Food supplements**

1236. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:
DR. ABRAR AHMED:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a number of products are being marketed in India as food supplements;

(b) whether it is a fact that some food supplements are being exported and some food supplements of foreign origin are also finding their way into India;

(c) if so, whether Government are aware of the need for an Act to regulate production, marketing and export of food supplements; and

(d) the action taken so far in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) to (d) The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Department of Indian Systems of Medicine and Homoeopathy (ISM&H) had initiated a proposal to prepare a Health Food Supplement (HFS) Bill but no final decision has been taken.

**Amendment of Essential Commodities Act**

1237. SHRIMATI JAMANA DEVI BARUPAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether almost 200 sugar mills in the country, of which 138 are working, could not be able to sell a single kg. of sugar during June, 2003 with the amendment to the Essential Commodities Act took effective from June 2, 2003;

(b) if so, the total number of sugar mills who have been granted free-sale quota for June;

(c) whether Government are planning to introduce a Bill to bring the amendments to the ECA under the Ninth Schedule (Article 31B) of the Constitution; and